

STRIKE NOT SETTLED YET

**BUT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS
BEEN MADE TOWARD ENDING IT.**

Morgan Railroads Willing to Concede a 10 Per Cent. Advance—Other Roads Would Follow—John Markie and Other Operators Here in Conference—Cardinal Gibbons Approached Tentatively as Mediator

Negotiations looking to the settlement of the great anthracite coal strike were continued yesterday in this city. Great reticence as to the situation was displayed by those in a position to know what was going on and the fact that there had not yet been any definite announcement of the ending of the strike, although the proceedings looking to its settlement started several days ago, led to the circulation of a report on the Stock Exchange that the negotiations had fallen through. A man in a position to know said positively, however,

"I don't think," he said, "that there will be any formal announcement that the strike is ended. The first indication of a settlement of the difficulty is likely to be the return to work of the men at some of the mines. This will be followed by the gradual reopening of the other mines. I wouldn't be surprised if this occurred early next week."

THE SEN reporter's informant declined to

answer a question as to whether either Cardinal Gibbons or Senator Hanna was concerned in the negotiations for the ending of the trouble. Senator Hanna visited the Wall street district again yesterday, and took luncheon with President E. B. Thomas of the Erie Railroad, which is one of the anthracite coal roads. Afterward he was driven to the Mills Building, where he remained about half an hour. There is an ex-

"I didn't know anything about the strike," continued Mr. Hanna, "except that it is one day further along. I came down here on my own private business. I am in this city to manage the campaign and am doing it every day."

Senator Hanna remarked that he was going to return to Chicago on Monday. At the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. no statement of any sort regarding the strike situation was obtained. The officials of the bank, however, were finding records also had little to say regarding the strike. Nearly every one of them pleaded the lack of definite information to management and some of them frankly admitted that the negotiations for a settlement of the strike were in the hands of the railroad officials. It was stated that the railroad President who attended with a conference in the office of J. P. Morgan &

& Co. on Wednesday spoke for only the lines controlled by Mr. Morgan and affiliated

interests. The principal roads represented were the Reading, the Erie, the Lehigh Valley, the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre and the Lacka-

freely admitted yesterday that there was a 10 to 10 per cent on condition of their remaining at work without interference by the United Mine Workers.

Inquiry regarding the willingness of all the anthracite railroads to settle in the proposed settlement was made by the committee. It was controlled by Mr. Morgan and his associates and represented only 73 per cent of the anthracite coal output, the other roads could not afford to hold back from any arrangement with the Morgan roads might make. John B. Wheeler, Vice-President of the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, said regarding this matter:

"Neither President Fowler nor myself has received any notice to participate in a confer-

ence regarding the coal strike. We carry only about 2,000,000 tons of anthracite a year. The Philadelphia and Reading, Delaware Lackawanna and Western, Lehigh Valley and Jersey Central mine so large a proportion of the anthracite coal produced that they can fix the conditions for the entire anthracite coal market. If they order a 10 per cent. advance in wages, none of us could get any minerals without also granting an advance."

John Markle of G. B. Markle & Co., who reached this city from Hazleton, Pa., yesterday morning had a brief conference at the effect of the

Lohhigh Valley Coal Company with Vice-Pres-

dent Nyrso. Another coal operator who was reported to be here was M. S. Kemmerer of Whitney & Kemmerer, agents, miners and shippers of anthracite, whose office is at 143 Liberty street. The President of one of the anthracite coal companies made this statement unofficially.

■ I am willing to admit that the miners have some real grievances. Some of the objections they make to present practices are justifiable. The powder question for instance, I believe should be reformed, for it is on an illogical basis. The powder charge to the miners has always been above the fair market price. The

present scale was adopted at the suggestion of the miners themselves, and there is a second-

each skilled miner works his mine chamber

With two assistants and he pays for their labor out of the money he receives from his employer. He receives a certain price per car for the coal he mines and he is practically a contractor.

"When the last adjustment of mine wages was made some time ago, the mining companies placed at a fixed price per car to be paid, and powder be furnished at about current market rates. But the miners did not care to accept such terms. They were apparently disposed to agree upon a price for powder which they understood was above the market quotation in return for concessions made by the companies in the price paid per coal car loaded. This arrangement has worked badly as it was bound to do. It is obvious that questions of wages and of powder supply ought

to be kept separate. With the settlement of this strike I think you will find that each ques-

The market for anthracite coal was flat yesterday, as in view of the expected near settlement of the strike no one was inclined to buy. The wholesale price of anthracite was quoted 80 to 75 cents under the price of two days ago, with white ash quoted at \$5.26 a ton.

BALTIMORE, Md., Sept. 28.—When asked to-day if he had consented to act as arbitrator

in the adjustment of the coal strike in Pennsylvania, Cardinal Gibbons said:

"The matter has not gone that far. I do not mind saying that I have been approached tentatively on the subject. There has been some correspondence for a week or so, but nothing has been absolutely determined."

"Were you approached by the representatives of both sides?"

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1990; 263: 1033-1036.
